



Richard, Toby, Ella, Nicola and Ben

Welcome Richard!

Richard writes: I am delighted to be appointed as National Director of SOMA UK, and look forward to ministering alongside SOMA friends in the UK and abroad, as we seek the renewal of the Holy Spirit to bless our people and churches. I am currently an associate Vicar of an Anglican church in London. I am married to Nicola who is also a Vicar and we have three children named Ella, Ben and Toby.

In 1995, aged 17, I was in post-communist Romania lying in a bed and reviewing my life. I found myself on this short-term mission despite my very weak faith. My companions had an inspirational prayer life and I quickly felt homesick for heaven. I prayed for the Holy Spirit to fill me, and there on the bed, in a dusty, rural and poor village camp, I was filled by God. I wanted to read the Bible, sing worship songs and quickly found a call to ministry.

A year later at University I was immersed in a culture that supported world mission. George Verwer from Operation Mobilisation (a world-wide mission organisation) regularly inspired us about mission and the needs of unreached people living in what he called the '10-40 window'. Over the next few years I went back to Romania, as well as Holland, India and Malaysia. At 23 I began to train for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol, and two years later married Nicola, who had spent a year in North India with the mission agency WEC. We were blessed to visit South Korea in our first summer together.

Our next 8 years were spent in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands (Lichfield Diocese). I was curate at St Jude's Wolverhampton and Nicola was the youngest Lay Reader in the Church of England, before she also trained for ordination at St John's Nottingham. Our three children were born in Wolverhampton, but they were all under four years of age when we moved to West London. It was snowy when we arrived in late 2011.

In the past 10 years we have seen 'Christ Church W4' (in Chiswick, London) develop considerably alongside our young family. Children and youth are very important to us. One highlight has been bringing a 'dead' church building back to life. This disused church was destined to become housing until the local community stopped the development. We were able to plant into the church and it is now full of life, people and most importantly worship.

As our family and church has grown so have opportunities to minister again more widely.

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Janet and Stephen

Farewell Stephen!

Stephen writes: I am unutterably thankful to our Lord God, and give Jesus Christ glory, for calling and appointing me to be vision bearer and leader of SOMA UK's ministry over this near last decade and a half. It has been a time of immense blessing, not only to those intercessors, supporters, team members, and of those to whom we go, but also a blessing to me. My heart's desire in ministry has always been to see others empowered by the Holy Spirit and so released for their own mission and ministry, to "equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" as Paul puts it in Ephesians 4. So, to be leading SOMA has been a profoundly encouraging and personally fulfilling time, whether it has been meeting with intercessors, being abroad on mission, addressing the complexities of multicultural cross-cultural mission, or facilitating our teams and intercessors for their ministry with SOMA.

A particular delight has been SOMA's flexible agility and fleetness of foot. Unencumbered by the institutional restraints of traditional and larger organisations we have been able to react swiftly and decisively to the Holy Spirit's command. To be, as the Lord spoke 'a polished arrow concealed in His quiver that drawn and released by Him does not miss its mark.'

To be propelled out of one's comfort zones into the radical insecurity of the liminality, the redemptive edge of the kingdom, is an adventure in itself, yet the experience of what I've heard and seen has been worth everything: in Kenya "you are not like others,

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SOMA UK in Transition...

Between July and October 2021 SOMA UK is in transition. Stephen Dinsmore retires as National Director on the 31st July after a near decade and a half as leader and vision bearer; on the 1st August Richard Moy takes over the lead as National Director of SOMA UK. In addition, Bishop Graham Cray ends his time as SOMA UK Patron and we welcome Bishop David Williams into the role. We are grateful that Steve Fincher remains as finance administrator until the end of this year. There will be other staff changes, a new office location and changes to email, phone and postal address – details inside this edition of *SHARING*.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With Revd Richard Moy, who becomes the new National Director of SOMA UK on 1 August following a handover period with Revd Stephen Dinsmore.

In August 2020 I had a dream that reminded me of the UK church. I wrote it up like a short story:

English children enjoy playing at the seaside, as we are an island nation. Here, the sea level rises and falls twice a day, sometimes covering the sandy beach completely, sometimes exposing it – a powerful tide of ocean. Children like to play with the sand, using it to try and stop the sea coming up the beach.

There were once seven eggs placed carefully in the sand in a line to try and stop the sea rising. However the sea rose and the eggs were all covered, and though they still held the semblance of a line under water they had not been able to stop the sea.

A wise man enquired of the storyteller: 'What could those who placed the eggs have done differently?' The storyteller replied: 'If they had but incubated those eggs in a safe place, they would now have seven fledged large sea birds able to soar above the sea for hundreds and hundreds of miles when the water rose'

Like many I have been very concerned about the church in the West. As I prayed about this I came to believe that God wanted to hatch and send out some large sea birds (young leaders) from the UK like Noah sent out the doves from the ark. These long-distance flying birds would bring back signs of hope to a church that had lost its way and was threatened by a rising cultural tide.

My own faith journey had been galvanised abroad. One lasting impression from my teenage years was of visiting a wonderful church in a leper colony in Romania where the pastor who had advanced leprosy also had such joyous and infectious faith. Now in the twenty-first century I believe God wants to use the nervous system of the body of Christ to wake up those bits of the body which have become lethargic and sleepy.

A nervous system points us to what needs healing, but also activates the whole body. Sometimes only by getting in touch with those bits of the body which have been in pain, will the rest of the body rise up and attend to its calling. This year I accidentally poured hot water into my lap. I was quickly on my feet and running to a bath. My lap was briefly injured, but my mind and feet were wide awake!

In my travels I have met many Christians, young and old, whose faith, hope and love for Jesus far outstrips my own, and that of my home country. My hope is that SOMA will be able to amplify these voices online, through short-term mission exchanges (sending young sea birds) and through enabling mutual prayer. As we hear and share these stories may the whole body of Christ wake up and do together what we have been called by Christ Jesus to do and make Him known.



Welcome Richard! *Continued from page 1*

Both Nicola and I have been Regional Directors for a national Holy Spirit renewal movement called *New Wine* since 2016, and I have been researching the development of the charismatic Anglican church in England. In 2019 Nicola became the Vicar of Christ Church W4 and I became the Associate Vicar, a role swap to keep us developing in ministry here and to release me for more ministry in the wider church.

Pre-Covid we managed missions to Uganda and North India, but sadly

had to delay missions to Jordan and Uganda due to travel restrictions. We both speak at churches and events around the UK and are hugely looking forward to our involvement with SOMA UK, which will find a happy base here in our offices at Christ Church W4 and will be returning just six miles from where Michael Harper was based while leading SOMA in the 1980s.

**10-40 window is between latitudes 10° and 40° North where the majority of unreached peoples live.*

Welcome to our new Patron!



SOMA is delighted to announce that Bishop David Williams is SOMA UK's new Patron. David has long been an enthusiastic part of SOMA, taking part in our vital intercession work and participating in a SOMA mission to DRC. He grew up in Uganda, still has relatives in East Africa, and has a particular commitment to DR Congo. He has been Bishop of Basingstoke since 2014, and is also the emissary of the Archbishop of Congo. No stranger to adventure, in 2010 and 2012 he and his son completed two long motorbike journeys across Eastern and Central Africa together, and he has also made many visits to East Africa at the invitation of local church leaders.

He describes one visit in 1998 to Uganda in this way, "two of us made a short notice visit to Rwensunde (in the foothills of the Rwenzori mountains), following an incursion by a terrorist group which left 22 men dead outside a Church on Maundy Thursday. On the way we had an unplanned meeting with a SOMA (USA) team in Kasese. Over the next week, in the face of heart-breaking tragedy there were daily examples of the Lord's presence. Since then I have made many visits to South Sudan, DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. Linking up with Stephen Dinsmore, Don Brewin and Matthew Grayson, I have often been an intercessor supporting a SOMA mission. In 2015 I spoke at the Bishop's retreat in Butembo, DR Congo, which was facilitated by a SOMA team which included an extraordinary group of intercessors from Kenya. I represented the

Archbishop of Canterbury at the enthronement of Archbishop Masimango in Kinshasa in the autumn of 2016."

Of SOMA, Bishop David says, "SOMA has had a remarkable history, a rare agility – which may well come from its deep commitment to being Holy Spirit led and Holy Spirit equipped. I am delighted to be taking up a new role as Patron, nominated by the Archbishop. I will continue to be deeply committed to praying for SOMA and to providing any support that I can. I look forward to a journey with you that will include encouraging, enabling, empowering and envisioning."

Please do join us on the 6th of July, 6pm GMT, at Christ Church Turnham Green Chiswick (in person or online via live stream) as we commission Bishop David for his role as SOMA's new Patron.



Bishop David with Archbishop Masimango, Primate of DR Congo



Bishop David and Ugandan friends

Farewell and Thank You Bishop Graham



Bishop Graham and Jackie Cray

Bishop Graham Cray has been SOMA UK's Patron since 2007 and in July will pass on the baton to our new Patron, Bishop David Williams. SOMA's National Director, staff, friends abroad, intercessors, team members and the wider SOMA family offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Bishop Graham for his faithful encouragement of, and advocacy for, SOMA.

Bishop Graham writes, "SOMA's calling is to 'care for the nervous system of the body of Christ', and is a gift to the Anglican Communion. The role of Patron is partly, as a bishop, to provide credibility to SOMA as a valued ministry of the Church of England for those parts of the Communion 'least visited', and to be an advocate for SOMA when needed.

It is partly to be an advisor and a wise head when needed by the Director or the trustees. I had always known of SOMA, and was asked to host and take part in the panel which appointed Stephen. The, then UK Patron, Bishop Simon Barrington Ward took this as the moment to stand down, and I was asked to succeed him. My first public role was to preside at Stephen's installation. Then, once I had retired from stipendiary ministry my wife Jackie and I had time to be part of a SOMA team and play a direct part in the ministry. We were part of a team to Wau in South Sudan, and returned there a few years later, taking a team for a leadership conference for the new Internal Province. South Sudan, Wau, and Archbishop Moses remain close to our hearts. It has been a privilege to fulfil the role, but now is the time to pass on the baton. I am delighted that Bishop David Williams will be my successor."

SOMA's new contact details

From 1st August 2021 our new postal address will be:

SOMA UK,
2 Wellesley Road,
Chiswick,
London, W4 4BL

Our new phone number will be:
+44 7311 825 415

Our email addresses will be:
info@somauk.org
richard.moy@somauk.org
steve.finch@somauk.org

Thank you

We really appreciate your continued involvement with the ministry of SOMA. However, if you no longer wish us to hold your personal details on our database, please email us at info@somauk.org. Please see our website www.somauk.org for a full privacy statement.

Are you called to work for SOMA in the UK?

Do you have a heart for justice, a desire to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit and excellent communication skills?



SOMA Tabora Team

SOMA UK are looking for an exceptional ministry assistant to join our small team in Chiswick, London as we develop as an international mission agency 'joining the Holy Spirit caring for the nervous system of the body of Christ.' Working directly with the new National Director you would be responsible for helping to reimagine how we do communication in a post-covid world, both amplifying the voices of those who are often overlooked and forgotten in the West

and enabling a wider and younger range of people to become part of SOMA UK's important mission.

Alongside developing our comms strategy, will be ample opportunity for ministry development, including overseas travel, as well as learning the nuts and bolts of running a small charity and office management.

SOMA UK is a small charismatic Anglican focused mission agency which 'joins the Holy Spirit to 'care for the nervous system of the body of

Christ' – often through short term missions and intercession to parts of the world where, while the church may be hurting, it also has plenty to teach us in the West.

The role is funded for 28 hours per week at London Living Wage (£10.85/hr). It runs from October 2021 to end of June 2022, although this could be extended for the right candidate.

The role could work alongside a ministry trainee scheme such as the

New Wine Discipleship Year (Ealing) or a course at St Mellitus College.

From September 2021 our offices will be based at Christ Church W4 in Chiswick, West London. Christ Church W4 is a Resource Church in the Diocese of London and Hub church in the New Wine Network. They have three main services on a Sunday, a great band and youth team and a variety of people of all ages including young adults.

Farewell Stephen!

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you do not stay in hotels and you eat with us"; in Bentiu South Sudan "Why have you come here, nobody ever comes here"; in Khartoum, Sudan. "God revealed himself to us", "I felt sin come from within me – I got it out", "I will do something new"; in Bor South Sudan "Like Jonah I have dodged the call, but the message came to me 'go to that church' – I accept, I will go", "we are all mourners, you have comforted us"; in D R Congo: "Your coming has made a big impact, we will never be the same", "God is summing everything for us – a confirmation of God's acceptance". And I have seen: – the sick healed, spirits cast out, sincere repentance, gifts lavished, leaders empowered, enemies reconciled, angels, visions, dreams, words, wisdom, knowledge, faith, protection from harm, the answer to prayer walk in, hearts, minds and lives transformed – in short, I have seen the unceasing favour of the Lord upon His people.

There have been challenges and costs too. Heart wrenching moments of profound shared grief, pain and sorrow; at unremitting poverty, violence and oppression in DR Congo; in South Sudan weeping with orphans beside the murderous LRA's death pit where the remains of their parents lay; in the 80 dead victims of Taliban suicide bombs at All Saints Peshawar, Pakistan a mere few weeks after preaching and ministering there; the sheer grinding, crushing exploitation of the poor by the global economy; the disturbance of dissatisfaction with our western culture of greed, individualism and self. Yet I should not have been surprised, after all "Storms arise where the Lord walks, the clouds are the dust raised by His feet" is the verse in Nahum with which God called me into this in the first place.

My particular thanks and thanksgiving extend to those who have so enthusiastically accompanied, released and encouraged me in leading SOMA's ministry: my wife Janet, my children and their families, friends, staff Steve, Zena, Jude and Judy, my personal intercessors, Hilary and Kate, SOMA intercessors, team members and leaders, supporters, many many SOMA friends abroad, fellow SOMA National Directors present and past, International Chairs Archbishops Ben and Justin and UK trustees.

Thank you all. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Stephen Dinsmore



Stephen, with birthday balloon, Juba

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Afternoon Conference and Thanksgiving and Commissioning Service

Please join us on the 6th July 2021

You are warmly invited to join with us as we welcome and commission our new National Director, Revd Richard Moy, and our new Patron, Bishop David Williams, and as we say farewell and thank you to our outgoing National Director Revd Stephen Dinsmore, Patron Bishop Graham Cray and Administrator Judy Deegan. Join with us in person or via live stream.



SOMA Administrator Judy Deegan

Afternoon SOMA Conference

2pm – 5pm at Christ Church Turnham Green, Chiswick, W4 5DT with Graham & Jackie Cray, Stephen Dinsmore & Richard Moy
5pm – 6pm meal break

Thanksgiving and Commissioning service

6pm, at Christ Church Turnham Green, Town Hall Avenue, Chiswick, W4 5DT.

For the link to the live stream, please go to www.somauk.org and click on 'Conference Live Stream'.

To attend in person you will need to book a ticket in advance due to Covid-19 restrictions. To book your free tickets go to www.somauk.org and click on 'Book Conference tickets here'.

SOMA 2021 UK Residential Conference

NEW DATES!

Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th October 2021
High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts

Join us for great time of fellowship, teaching, prayer, worship, ministry and relaxation. Be inspired, be encouraged and ignite your passion for intercession, prayer and for mission. Spend time aside with God, enjoy great company.

The Conference was originally planned for May 2021 but has been rescheduled for October. It is open for all involved with SOMA and will be a great chance to reconnect with each other, and to meet SOMA's new National Director, Richard Moy, who will be in post from 1st August, and the SOMA staff team.

"I enjoyed the atmosphere of welcome, friendship, zeal and the presence of God"

"I love the encouragement of being with such a humble group of solid Christians with hearts for mission"

"It instructs and encourages one praying"

(Previous conference delegates)

For more information please email steve.fischer@somauk.org, or write to: Revd Richard Moy, 2 Wellesley Road, Chiswick, London, W4 4BL

Booking form now available on our website www.somauk.org

Cost: £185 per person all inclusive.